

the construction of the mill will require the services of over 30,000 workers.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating both Neal Wade and all of those at the Alabama Development Office for being named the best in the Nation for 2006 by Site Selection magazine. For these and all their accomplishments, I extend my heartfelt thanks for their continued service to the Alabama business community, the First Congressional District, the State of Alabama, and to the international business community.

#### INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO INCLUDE GREECE IN THE VISA WAIVER PROGRAM

#### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2007*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today I introduce legislation to include Greece as a program country in the Visa Waiver Program. The Visa Waiver Program permits nationals from certain countries who are traveling to the United States for tourism or business to stay for 90 days or less without obtaining a visa. Currently, 27 countries are included in the Visa Waiver Program. To participate, countries must meet several criteria including reciprocal visa-free travel for U.S. citizens, secure machine-readable biometric passports, and a maximum allowable 3 percent refusal rate of U.S. non-immigrant visitor visa applications.

Of the original 15 European Union nations, Greece is the only member not to belong to the Visa Waiver Program. However, Greece has met the current criteria mandated for entry into the Visa Waiver Program, including the 3 percent refusal rate. As of January 1, 2007, Greek passports issued prior to January 1, 2006, are no longer considered valid for travel. Greek nationals are traveling with new, machine-readable passports that are produced using state-of-the-art biometric technology to meet the highest possible security standards and specifications.

Greece is a critical ally of the United States. While I hope that the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security will move forward to include Greece in the Visa Waiver Program, I believe that the legislation that I am introducing today is an important step in making that happen.

Joining me in introducing this legislation are Representatives GUS M. BILIRAKIS, ZACK SPACE, JOHN SARBANES, ROBERT WEXLER, SHELLEY BERKLEY, JAMES MCGOVERN, DIANE WATSON, HENRY BROWN, MARIO DIAZ-BALART, JANICE SCHAKOWSKY, DONALD PAYNE, FRANK PALLONE, THADDEUS MCCOTTER, GRACE NAPOLITANO, LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, JESSE JACKSON, MICHAEL McNULTY, EARL BLUMENAUER, BARBARA LEE, WILLIAM JEFFERSON, PATRICK KENNEDY, SCOTT GARRETT, WILLIAM LACY CLAY, LINDA SANCHEZ, LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, ROBERT ANDREWS, JAMES LANGEVIN, JOSEPH CROWLEY, and ANNA ESHOO.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2007*

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 364 on Andrews of New Jersey amendment on H.R. 1585, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

#### TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT RYAN J. BAUM

#### HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2007*

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen Marine from my district, Sergeant Ryan J. Baum of Aurora. Sergeant Baum was killed May 18th during a firefight in Karmah, Iraq.

Sergeant Baum was killed in the line of duty a day before he was scheduled to return to Colorado—where he planned to rejoin his wife Amber for the birth of his first child who they planned to name Leia. He was just 27 years old.

Sergeant Baum was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team Airborne, 25th Infantry Division. He attended basic training in Oklahoma before heading to Combat Medical School in San Antonio, where he met his wife. He then went on to Fort Benning, Georgia where he graduated from Ranger school.

Ryan grew up in Aurora, where he attended Smoky Hill High School and played on the lacrosse team.

Amber—who was trained as an Army medic herself—told the Rocky Mountain News that Ryan was quite passionate about his role as an emergency care Sergeant; and I would ask that the text of that news article be included in the RECORD.

Amber told the News, "He loved the challenge. In combat medicine you have to decide a life-or-death situation in less than a second, never knowing the answer but having to figure it out."

Madam Speaker, my deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences go out to Ryan's wife Amber, his parents Richard and Dana, his brother Jason, and his sister, Mande. He will no doubt be missed and loved by all who knew and loved him.

Sergeant Baum served his country bravely, fighting for freedom and democracy against the forces of tyranny and oppression. Americans should never forget his service or sacrifice, and the nation will forever owe a great debt of gratitude to Ryan and his family.

[From the Rocky Mountain News, May 23, 2007]

SOLDIER "WOULD HAVE BEEN BEST FATHER"  
MEDIC DIES IN IRAQ, WAS SET TO FLY HOME FOR  
BIRTH OF 1ST CHILD

(By Hector Gutierrez)

When Amber Baum gives birth to her daughter, she'll also be delivering the dream her husband didn't see come true.

Sgt. Ryan J. Baum, 27, was scheduled to fly home from Iraq on Saturday to be with his

wife for the birth of their first child, whom they decided to name Leia.

"He just flipped when he found out he was going to be a father," Amber said Tuesday. "From day one this man wanted me to have his baby."

The paratrooper who was raised in Aurora never made it home. He was killed Friday, one day before his scheduled return. He died from wounds he suffered during a battle near Kalsu, Iraq, the Department of Defense said.

"He would have been the best father that God could have placed on this earth," said his wife, who is staying with her parents in Gettysburg, Pa. "His spirit is going to live through his daughter."

Amber also finds comfort in knowing her husband saved lives as an emergency care sergeant, or medic.

"You need to save a life in less than a second, and he loved the challenge. In combat medicine you had to decide a life-or-death situation in less than a second, never knowing the answer but having to figure it out," said Amber, who also was trained as an Army medic.

Baum grew up in Aurora and attended Smoky Hill High School, where he played on the lacrosse team. His wife described her husband as the typical "Colorado man."

"I'd never met anybody from Colorado, and he was the definition of a Colorado man," she said. "He loved camping, he loved climbing, he loved kayaking, boating and fishing."

Baum also had loved the military since he was a child.

He was attending college when he was informed in 2003 that he had been accepted into the Army.

"He thought it was the great thing to do, he just thought it was the right thing to do to serve his country," Amber, 21, said.

Baum went to basic training at Fort Sill, Okla., before heading to Combat Medical School in San Antonio, Texas, where he met Amber. The couple carried on a long-distance relationship when Baum went to Fort Benning, Ga., where he graduated from Ranger school with high marks.

"He was always an honor graduate, which was someone who exceeds above everybody else," Amber said.

"He was extremely strong, very physically fit."

After graduating from Ranger school, Baum was accepted into the Special Operations Combat Medic School at Fort Bragg, N.C., considered the Army's elite medical training facility.

"You could compare it to Top Gun in flight school," his wife said.

He graduated from Special Operations Combat Medic School in 2005, the year he and Amber got married. The two were then reassigned to Fort Richardson, Alaska, in June 2005.

Baum was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division.

In 2006 he underwent extensive medical training and preparation for his deployment to Iraq. Baum was selected to be senior instructor of the Alaska branch of pre-Ranger school.

On Oct. 7, 2006, he left for Iraq.

In addition to his wife, Baum is survived by his parents, Richard and Dana; brother, Jason; and sister, Mande.

The family has established the "SGT Ryan John Baum Memorial Fund" through US Bank. All proceeds will go to help Baum's wife and their daughter's college education.